UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/778
19 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to my letter of 18 August 1998 (S/1998/770), I have the honour to inform you of the initial consequences of the recent interruption by the Rwandan-Ugandan military coalition of the supply of water and electricity to the city of Kinshasa.

The first signs of a humanitarian disaster are taking shape in that city. During the last 72 hours in maternity hospitals more than 700 newborn babies have died as a result of the malfunctioning of incubators and other medical apparatus. The interruption has totally disrupted the lives of the people of Kinshasa. Food in cold storage has become unsuitable for consumption and the scarcity of foodstuffs and shortage of fuel are aggravating the situation. In view of the precarious conditions in which the population is living, it is to be feared that there will be an imminent outbreak of contagious diseases which will rapidly spread to the six million inhabitants of the city.

The interruption in the power supply is adequate proof of the genocidal purposes of the Rwandan and Ugandan aggressors and of their deliberate intention to violate the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law. This genocidal culture has already been illustrated in the conquered towns of Goma and Bukavu by the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition, in particular by the summary execution of officers of the Congolese armed forces and the total and indiscriminate repression of the indigenous populations.

My Government requests the Security Council to remain seized of this matter and promises to keep it regularly informed of developments in the situation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André MWAMBA KAPANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-24324 (E) 190898 190898